

§ 622.31

engaging during the removal process. The dehooking end must be blunt, and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery.

[78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 78 FR 46822, Aug. 2, 2013]

§ 622.31 Buoy gear identification.

(a) *Buoy gear*. In the Gulf EEZ, if buoy gear is used or possessed, each buoy must display the official number of the vessel. See § 622.2 for the definition of buoy gear.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 622.32 Prohibited gear and methods.

Also see § 622.9 for additional prohibited gear and methods that apply more broadly to multiple fisheries or in some cases all fisheries.

(a) *Poisons*. A poison may not be used to take Gulf reef fish in the Gulf EEZ.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 622.33 Prohibited species.

(a) *General*. The harvest and possession restrictions of this section apply without regard to whether the species is harvested by a vessel operating under a commercial vessel permit. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for the limit applicable to that vessel.

(b) *Goliath grouper*. Goliath grouper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the Gulf EEZ.

(c) *Nassau grouper*. Nassau grouper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the Gulf EEZ. Such fish caught in the Gulf EEZ must be released immediately with a minimum of harm.

(d) *Gulf reef fish exhibiting trap rash*. Possession of Gulf reef fish in or from the Gulf EEZ that exhibit trap rash is prima facie evidence of illegal trap use and is prohibited. For the purpose of this paragraph, trap rash is defined as physical damage to fish that characteristically results from contact with wire fish traps. Such damage includes, but is not limited to, broken fin spines, fin rays, or teeth; visually obvious loss of scales; and cuts or abrasions on the body of the fish, particularly on the head, snout, or mouth.

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–13 Edition)

§ 622.34 Seasonal and area closures designed to protect Gulf reef fish.

(a) *Closure provisions applicable to the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps, and the Edges*—(1) *Descriptions of Areas*. (i) The Madison and Swanson sites are bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

| Point | North lat. | West long. |
|---------|------------|------------|
| A | 29°17' | 85°50' |
| B | 29°17' | 85°38' |
| C | 29°06' | 85°38' |
| D | 29°06' | 85°50' |
| A | 29°17' | 85°50' |

(ii) Steamboat Lumps is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

| Point | North lat. | West long. |
|---------|------------|------------|
| B | 28°14' | 84°37' |
| C | 28°03' | 84°37' |
| D | 28°03' | 84°48' |
| A | 28°14' | 84°48' |

(iii) The Edges is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

| Point | North lat. | West long. |
|---------|------------|------------|
| A | 28°51' | 85°16' |
| B | 28°51' | 85°04' |
| C | 28°14' | 84°42' |
| D | 28°14' | 84°54' |
| A | 28°51' | 85°16' |

(2) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps, possession of Gulf reef fish is prohibited, except for such possession aboard a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed as specified in paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(3) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps during November through April, and within the Edges during January through April, all fishing is prohibited, and possession of any fish species is prohibited, except for such possession aboard a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed as specified in paragraph (a)(4) of this section. The provisions of this paragraph, (a)(3), do not apply to highly migratory species.

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (a) of this section, transit means non-stop progression through the area; fishing gear appropriately stowed means—